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Alberta Agriculture

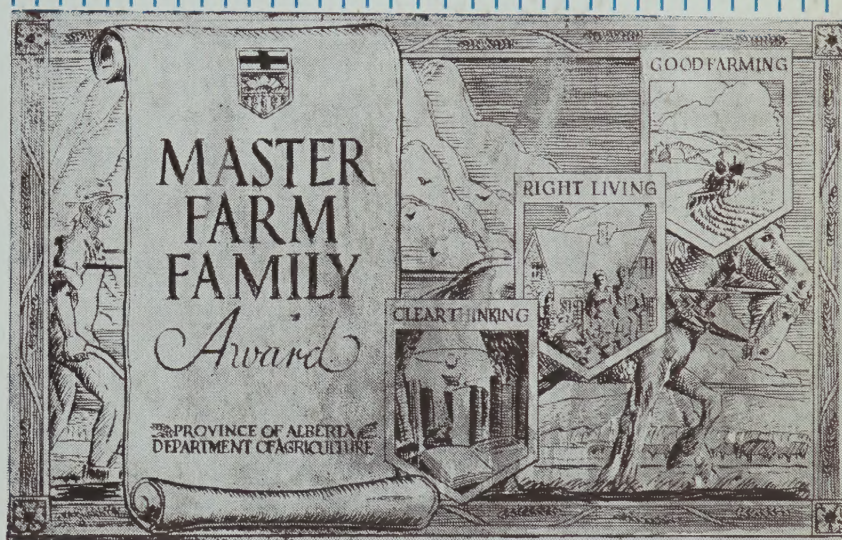
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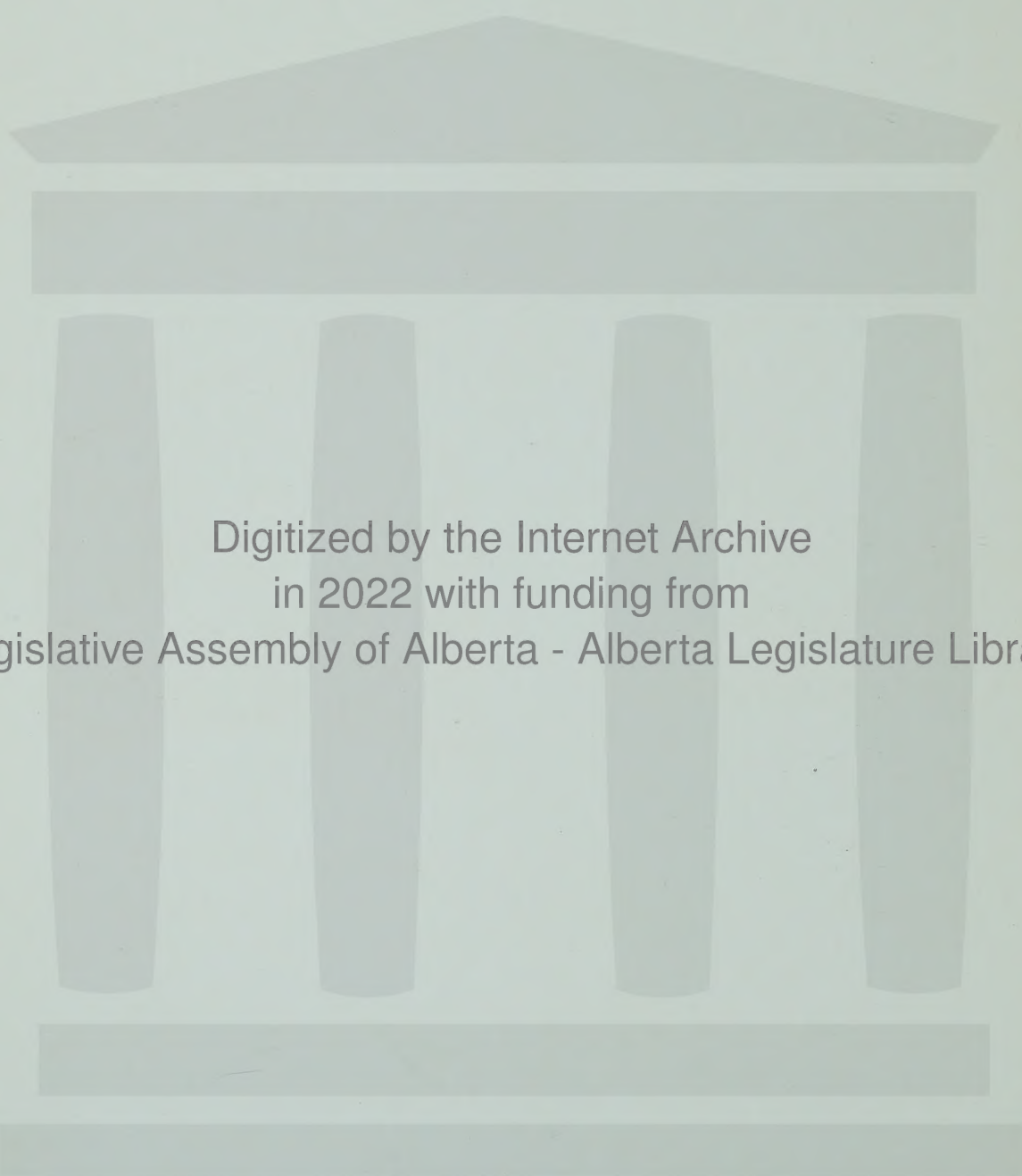
Alberta's



MASTER FARM FAMILIES

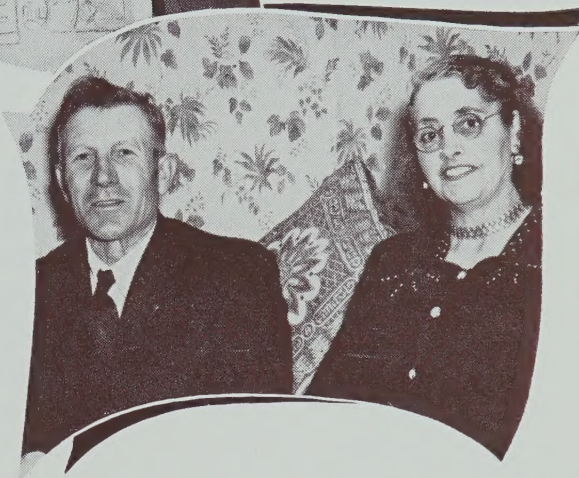
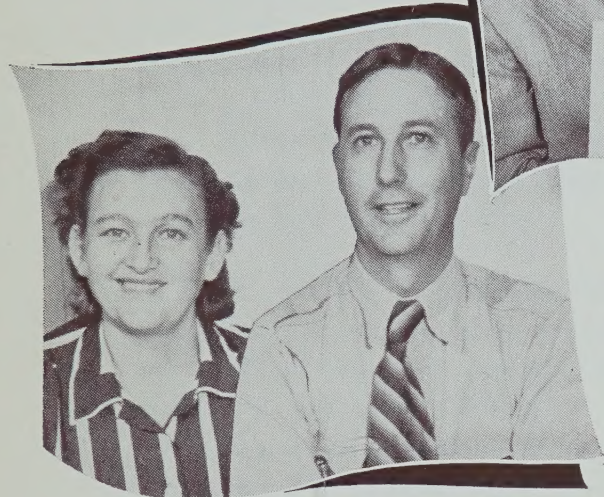
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- GOOD FARMING
- RIGHT LIVING
- CLEAR THINKING



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EDGAR FAMILY

W. J. EdgarInnisfail

DUSSEAUT FAMILY

J. G. DusseaultVimy

MELENKA FAMILY

J. E. MelenkaWarwick

JENSEN FAMILY

L. R. JensenMagrath

PAQUETTE FAMILY

Joseph PaquetteDonnelly

OH, HOW HAPPY BEYOND MEASURE WOULD BE THE HUSBANDMEN IF THEY KNEW THEIR OWN GOOD FORTUNE.
—Virgil.





FOREWORD

The recognition of people who have achieved outstanding success in their chosen profession by their fellowmen is not a common event in agriculture. Believing that farming is the most basic of all vocations and deserving of greater attention than it receives, the Government of the Province of Alberta decided to initiate a Master Farm Family Award as a means of honoring families in this calling who have achieved success as farmers, homemakers and citizens.

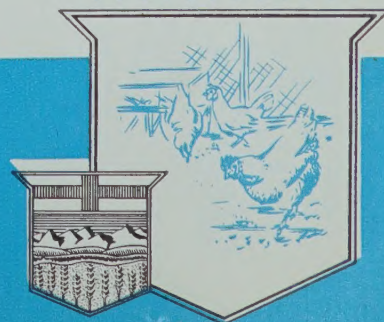
I would like to express, on behalf of the Government of Alberta, congratulations to the five families who were named Master Farm Families in 1949, appreciation to all those who assisted as judges in selecting the recipients for this honor, and commendation to the various organizations who in any way helped to carry out the program.

It is my earnest hope that this program, through its emphasis on Good Farming, Right Living and Clear Thinking, will assist in creating a greater appreciation of agriculture among all people, and the realization that the proper use of the soil is fundamental to the existence of man upon the earth.

D. A. URE,
Minister of Agriculture.



FARMING IS THE MOST HONORABLE OF PROFESSIONS, AND
UNQUESTIONABLY A ROMANTIC AND INSPIRING ONE.
Louis Broomfield.





DUSSEAUT FAMILY

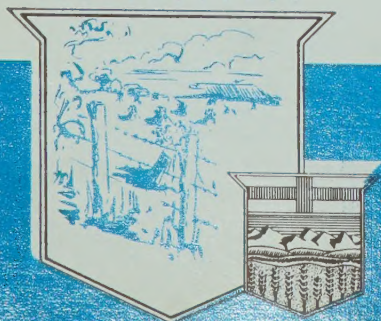
J. G. Dusseault Vimy

Master

FARM FAMILIES 1949

The Master Farm Family Program was initiated in Alberta by being announced in the Speech from the Throne on February 17, 1949. Early in March the program for 1949 was completed, including the procedures for selecting those to be honored.

The Master Farm Family Program is a policy of the Alberta Government which seeks to select and honor farm families who have made an outstanding success of farming, home-making and citizenship. The program is a method of selecting and recognizing outstanding achievement, rather than a competition in the usual sense of the word. By honoring a family rather than an individual and by insisting that nominations be made by three neighbors, two rather fundamental objectives are achieved.



The objectives of the Master Farm Family Program were enunciated as:

1. To honor farm families who have achieved notable success in farming, homemaking and citizenship.
2. To provide a practical demonstration of farm and family progress and approved practices that bring success.
3. To draw attention to the advantages of farming as a vocation and to the wholesomeness and dignity of rural life.
4. To set before the rising generation the higher ideals of agriculture and the opportunities in rural citizenship.



EDGAR FAMILY
W. J. Edgar -- Innisfail

JENSEN FAMILY
L. R. Jensen ----- Magrath



POOR SOIL MAKES POOR PEOPLE.—H. H. Bennett.





MELENKA FAMILY
J. E. Melenka, Warwick

Regulations were drafted setting forth the requirements for entry in the 1949 program, viz:-

1. The Family must be Canadian citizens.
2. The head of the family must be the owner-operator or lease-operator of a farm.
3. The head of the family must have spent at least ten consecutive years in actual operation of a farm. Absence on military service will be accepted.
4. The nomination for the Master Farm Family Award must be made on the Form provided, signed by at least three neighbors, accepted by the nominee himself and filed with the District Agriculturist by July 1st.

PAQUETTE FAMILY

Joseph Paquette ----- Donnelly



DIVIDED INTO ZONES

To carry out the objectives of the program the Province was divided into five zones, which corresponded roughly with the soil zones of the Province. These zones were named South, East Central, West Central, North and Peace River. It was decided to name one Master Farm Family in each zone, providing, of course, that a minimum standard, was attained.



A Winning Family.

The happy smile reflects appreciation of the honor.

CONSTANT TILLAGE EXHAUSTS A FIELD.—Ovid.



Master Farm Family Score Card

Family Name _____ Address _____

	Possible Score
A. The Home and Farmstead	325
1. Farmstead Layout	25
2. Farmstead Plan	30
3. Farmstead shelterbelt, lanes, etc.	30
4. Farm Buildings	75
5. Sanitation	30
6. Farm Home	90
7. Home Equipment	45
B. Operation and Organization of Farm	350
1. Cropping Program or Rotation	60
2. Maintenance of Soil Fertility	40
3. Crop Yields	30
4. Contribution to Family Living	20
5. Quality of Seed	25
6. Live Stock and Poultry	60
7. Machinery and Equipment	35
8. Tillage Practices	50
9. Fields and Roads	10
10. Records of Yields and Performance Records	20
C. Family and Community Life	300
1. Family Relationships	50
2. Education of Children	60
3. Neighborliness	30
4. Participation in Community	50
5. Interest in Church and School	50
6. Interest in Government	20
7. Farm Labor	40
D. Management and Business Methods	180
1. Relationship of annual income to investment	30
2. Farm Accounts	40
3. Plan for Financial Security	40
4. Insurance	30
5. Business Reputation	40
Total	1155

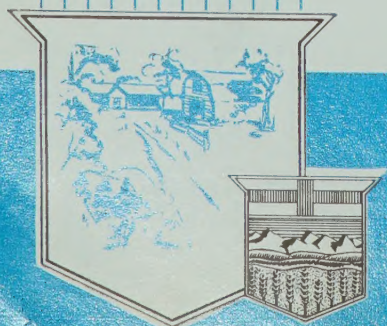
While this is a program of selection rather than competition, the score card is necessary for evaluation.

Its use also indicates to nominees the points under which they may strive for further improvement in succeeding years.

A SCORE CARD WAS DESIGNED

A score card was designed to provide a standard basis for evaluating the factors which were considered to be desirable and essential in a Master Farm Family and which would aid in determining those to receive the award. The score card used in 1949 appears above.

* The 1950 Score Card will be somewhat revised.



SELECTING THE FAMILY

In addition to the score card, a family record form was completed by the judges. On this form were recorded the details of the family's farming operations, the home, the activities, the family and other pertinent information. This data, along with the impressions and opinions gained by the judges in personal interviews, were used to determine the merits of each entrant.

The first elimination was made in the District Agriculturist territory, where a committee composed of the District Agriculturist, District Home Economist, one farmer and one farm woman, visited each nominee and eliminated all but three of those who had been nominated. In districts where nominations numbered three or less the nominees were visited and evaluated just the same. At this stage there were 95 nominees.

The second step in judging was done on a zone basis. A team of five judges, consisting of officials of the Department, an official of the Dominion Experimental Stations, a farmer and a farm woman, eliminated the contestants in each zone until there were not more than three. The eliminations at this level necessitated a careful scrutiny of the records and evaluation of the district committees, and in many cases a second visit to the home of the contestants.

The final decision was made by a Provincial committee consisting of the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, the Supervisor of Women's Work, Department of Agriculture, a representative of the University of Alberta, the President of the Alberta Federation of Agriculture and the President of the Farm Women's Union of Alberta. This committee reviewed the names of those handed on to it by the zone committees, and on the basis of the information available chose the Master Farm Families of 1949.

The names of the Farm Families nominated in 1949 for the Master Farm Family Award appear elsewhere in this book.

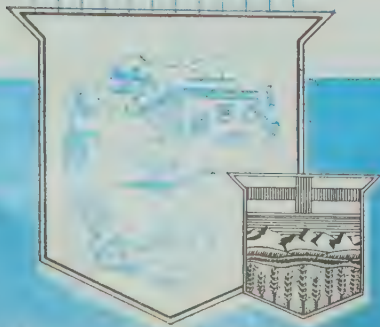
LET US NEVER FORGET THAT THE CULTIVATION OF THE
EARTH IS THE MOST IMPORTANT LABOUR OF MAN.—Daniel
Webster.





RIGHT LIVING

Farming may be regarded by many people as a means to livelihood and wealth. To the Master Farmer it is much more—it is a way of life. He regards wealth in terms of gracious living and gives unstintingly of his time and talents to provide such a living first for his family and secondly for his community. Loved as a husband and father, highly regarded by his friends and neighbors his whole life stands for those things that are expressed in "Right Living".



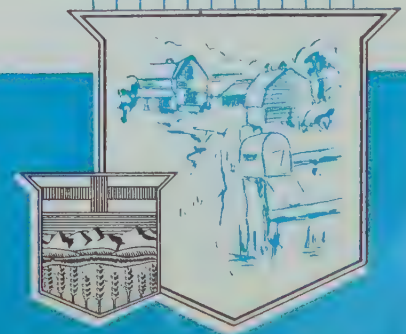
Homes of some Master Farm
Families.



A windbreak for protection to
buildings and the soil and to
beautify the farm.



WITHOUT FORAGE NO CATTLE; WITHOUT CATTLE NO
MANURE; WITHOUT MANURE NO CROPS.—Flemish proverb.

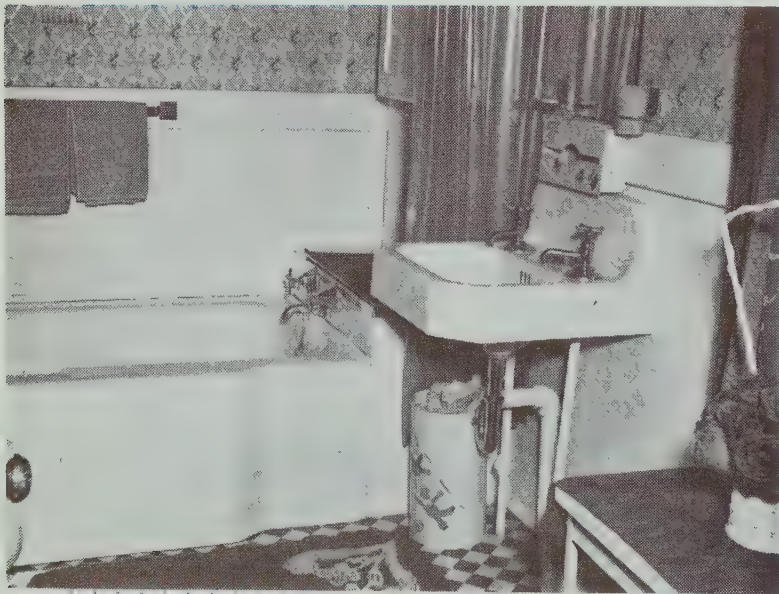


MODERN FARMS

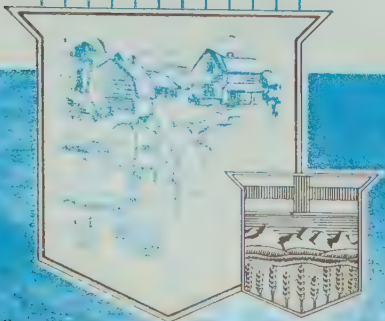
The days of drudgery past, the modern farm presents an air of business-like efficiency. A well conceived plan provides time for all operations and modern machines and equipment permit of their orderly performance. The modern farmer may have as many problems as his pioneer father but they are of a different kind and he has better provision for meeting them.



Good meals are an aid
to healthier and happier living.



Modern conveniences are
improving farm living.



COMFORTABLE HOMES

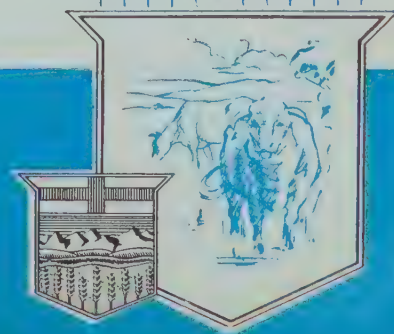
Gracious living is achieved with difficulty, if at all, in an uncomfortable home. The Master Farm Family of today applies the advances in building science to the renovation or construction of the home. The result may or may not be costly or pretentious but it is a comfortable home, lending to its occupants that spirit of contentment without which life is a drab affair.

Companionship and skills develop in a family working as a group.



Profitable use of leisure time brings contentment.

THE BEST FERTILIZER ON ANY FARM IS THE FOOTSTEP OF THE OWNER.—Confucius.

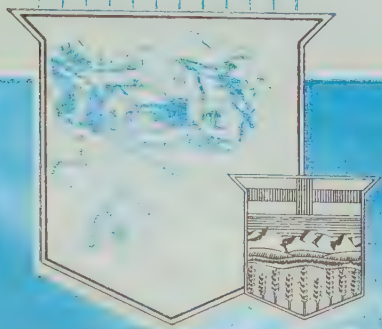




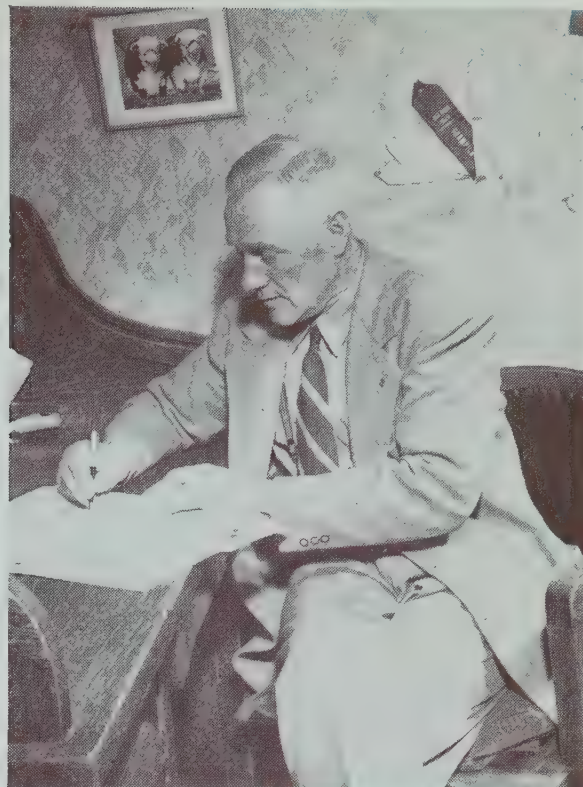
Planning the farm business is essential for long time maximum results. The chances of successful operation of plan are infinitely greater when both sides of the domestic partnership contribute to framing it.

CLEAR THINKING

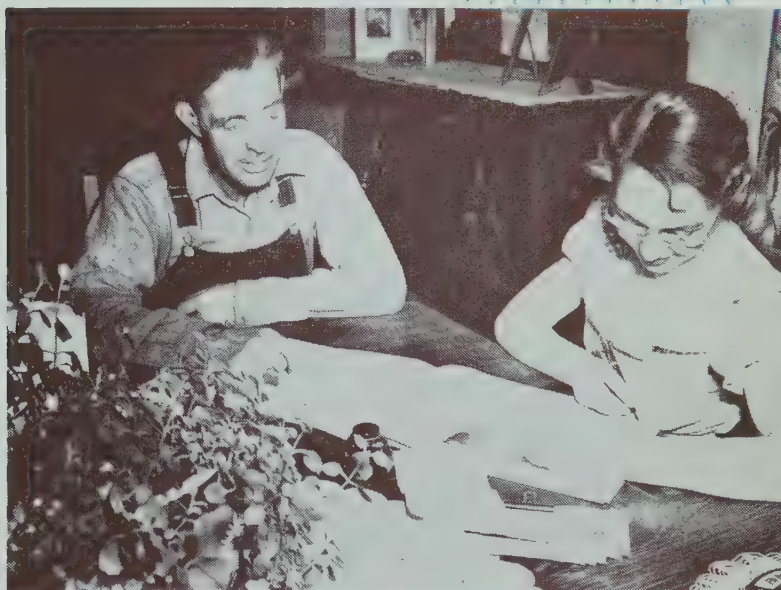
The same clear thinking that makes a farmer a Master, marks him also as a pillar of strength in his community. His counsel is sought by his family, his neighbors, the church, the school and the local government. His is the ability to discover the real issue through the superficialities of the surface. Every community has such men and one of the purposes of this program is to point them out.



Without accurate recorded statements of what has gone before it is difficult to make plans for the future. Well kept farm accounts are the basis for sound decisions on farm organization and financial transactions.



Young people are not so likely to leave the farm if they understand and have a share in its operation. Interest will soar in proportion to understanding and participation. Father-Son agreements may be one answer.



WHEN TILLAGE BEGINS, OTHER ARTS FOLLOW. — Daniel Webster



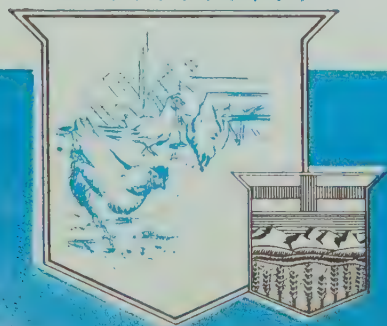


FORAGE CROPS

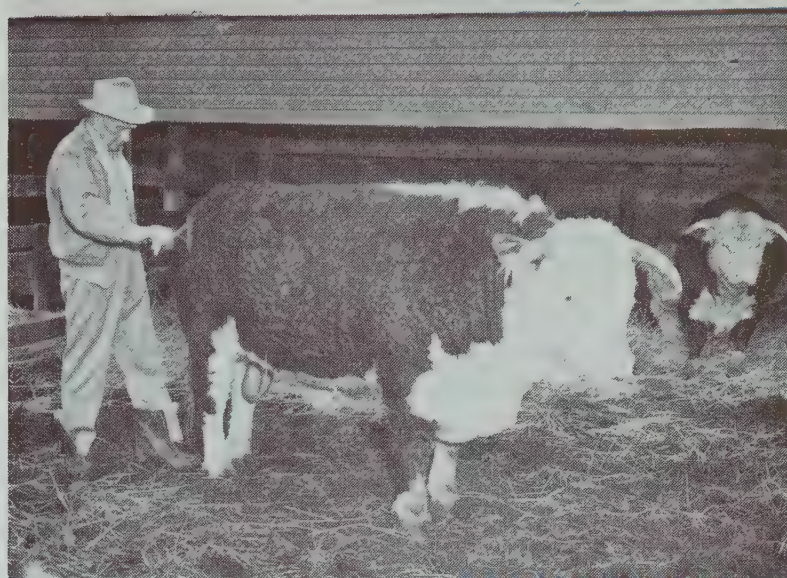
Continuous production of one type of crop is not sound farming practice. Forage crops provide feed reserves, conserve soil and control weeds, especially when legumes are included.

GOOD FARMING

The Master Farmer is primarily a husbandman. He has a full appreciation of the privilege and responsibility of his stewardship. His, not to deplete the soil by extractive farming in the elusive quest for gold; rather, by working in harmony with nature, to conserve her resources, reap her bounty and pass on the land for the productive use of future generations. His cropping program will be diversified, his use of fertilizer judicious. He will utilize approved seed and livestock and by good husbandry produce maximum yields of both.



Good breeding stock
is essential in a balanced farm
program. Sires like these are
the basis of herds of
quality beef cattle, and their
owners will profit accordingly.



Income from several sources
spells security.
A flock of well-bred,
well-fed poultry not only
contributes to the family table
but is a day-to-day source
of income to provide
for incidental household
expense.



GOOD PASTURE MAKES FAT SHEEP.—Shakespeare

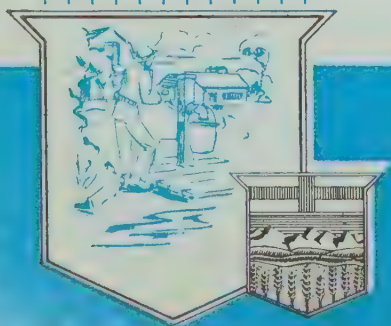




Good farming practices are acquired at an early age. Participation in Junior Club activities and attendance at an Agricultural School stimulate interest in sound agriculture and may contribute much more than knowledge to the development of youth.



A neat home on a neat farm is a worthwhile ultimate objective for a Master Farm Family. The nerve centre of the farm activities, it is also the heart centre of the family.



FAMILIES NOMINATED

Andrew, Mrs. E., Drumheller.
 Atkinson Bros., St. Albert.
 Atkinson, Mr. E. A., St. Albert.
 Austin, Mr. J. H., Ranfurly.
 Baby, Mr. T., Cherhill.
 Baker, Mr. P., Lethbridge.
 Ballhorn, Mr. Roy, Wetaskiwin.
 Barnes, Mr. J., Bindloss.
 Barr, Mr. G. A., Macleod.
 Barr, Mr. Wm., Vermilion.
 Belzil, Mr. H. J., St. Paul.
 Bengtson, Mr. C., Scandia.
 Bilodeau, Mr. J. A., Vimy.
 Brewster, Mr. W., Macleod.
 Briggs, Mr. R. C., South Edmonton.
 Cammaert, Mr. M. E., Rockyford.
 Cherot, Mr. E. H., Box 83, W. Edmonton.
 Cissell, Mr. M., R.R. 4, Ponoka.
 Crowell, Mr. H. H., Drumheller.
 Cunningham, Mr. J. M., Eckville.
 Daley, Mr. S., Granum.
 Dudley, Mr. G. T., Magrath.
 Dudley, Mr. Wallace, Magrath.
 Dusseault, Mr. J. G., Vimy.
 Ebbers, Mr. J. R., North Edmonton.
 Edgar, Mr. W. J., Innisfail.
 Ellett Bros., Busby.
 Francis, Mr. E. N., Taber.
 Gilkyson, Mr. F., Laglace.
 Groff, Mr. C., Ferintosh.
 Hafso, S., Viking.
 Halisky, Mr. M., Smoky Lake.
 Hart, Mr. E. W. & Sons, Vermilion.
 Horton, Mr. G. V., Hinesburg.
 Holroyd, Mr. C. J., Box 81, Warner.
 Huyghe, Mr. R., Killam.
 Jensen, Mr. L. R., Magrath.
 Johnson, Oscar, Scandia.
 Johnston, Mr. L. N., Markerville.
 Jones, Mr. I., R.R. 1, Ponoka.
 Kehoe, Mr. J., Camrose.
 Kehr, Mr. M., Grande Prairie.
 Knudslein, Mr. S., Tofield.
 Laighton, Mr. J., R.R. 4, Ponoka.
 Larson, Mr. A., Irma.
 Lehr, Mr. G., Kimball.
 Macdonald, Mr. W. D., Grainger.
 MacKenzie, Mr. J. F., Spring Coulee.
 MacMillan, Mr. L. M., R.R. 2, Pickardville.
 McArthur, Mr. J. A., Gleichen.
 McCarty, Mr. Frank W., Vegreville.
 McDowell, Mr. E., R.R. 4, Ponoka.
 McGillivray, Mr. W. L., Coaldale.
 McKinnon, Mr. J. A., Dalemead.
 McLaughlin, Mr. J. & Sons, Mannville.
 Mark, Mr. A., Bremner.
 Martin, Mr. Leon St., Legal.
 Matejka, Mr. A., Ponoka.
 Melenka, Mr. J. F., Warwick.
 Mueller, Mr. R., Ghost Pine Creek.
 Morris, Mr. T., Didsbury.
 Nelson, Mr. E. E., Owendale.
 Notland, Mr. P., Morrin.
 Paquette, Mr. Joseph, Donnelly.
 Parent, Mr. Fred, Clyde.
 Parsons, Mr. E. S., Boyle.
 Pearson, Mr. J. Walter, Edberg.
 Pentelechuk, Mr. I., Smoky Lake.
 Peterson, Mr. Soren, Tilley.
 Powley, Mr. Peter, R.R. 2, Ryley.
 Probst, Mr. G. W., Lougheed.
 Rock & Sons, Mr. P. J., Drumheller.
 Roualt, Mr. J. P., St. Albert.
 Saffin, Mr. Mark, Morinville.
 Salamandick, Mr. Wm., Vegreville.
 Scotney, Mr. Norman, Vulcan.
 Sherk Bros., Huallen.
 Solberg, Mr. Maurice, Cardside.
 Sommerville, Mr. H. P. & Son, Endiang.
 Stauffer, Mr. Clyde, Evarts.
 Stevens, Mr. J. I., R.R. 1, Morinville.
 Storch, Mr. G. R., Morrin.
 Stromberg, Mr. Enoch, New Norway.
 Stroschein, Mr. Fred, Box 107,
 Wetaskiwin.
 Urquhart, Mr. G. R., Kirkcaldy.
 Van de Walle, Mr. B., Legal.
 Wagner, Mr. E. P., R.R. 1, Clyde.
 Walker, Mr. C. Ross, Box 158, Vulcan.
 Walker, Mr. J. F., Veteran.
 Ward, Mr. M. H., Box 41, Arrowwood.
 Watson, Mr. Victor, Airdrie.
 Wills, Mr. K. W., R.R. 2, Calgary.
 Yacooshin, Mr. P., Eckville.
 Zazula, Mr. Wm., Willingdon.
 Zoeteman, Mr. Lendert, Pearce.

AGRICULTURE IS AN ART THAT RENDERS THOSE WHO UNDER-
 STAND IT RICH, BUT LEAVES THOSE WHO DO NOT UNDER-
 STAND IT, HOWEVER MUCH THEY MAY LABOUR IN IT, TO
 LIVE IN POVERTY.—Xenophon, 434-355, B.C.



The Eleventh Commandment

Thou shalt inherit the holy earth as a faithful steward, conserving its resources and productivity from generation to generation. Thou shalt safeguard thy field from soil erosion, thy living waters from drying up, thy forests from desolation, and protect thy hills from over-grazing by thy herds, so that thy descendants may have abundance forever. If any shall fail in this stewardship of the land his fruitful fields shall become sterile, stony ground and wasting gullies, and his descendants shall decrease and live in poverty or perish from off the face of the earth.

—Hugh H. Bennett.





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